



DELAWARE BICYCLE COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

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3ft Law passed the Delaware Senate!! *by Amy Wilburn*

The "three foot passing law", SB168, passed the Senate unanimously on 6/29/09! It was introduced in the House and assigned to the Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee on 6/30/09. The bill will be addressed in the House when the second session of the 145th General Assembly reconvenes in January of 2010. Dave Sokola sponsored the bill in the Senate. Helene Keeley, Terry Schooley, and Debbie Hudson are the House sponsors.

SB168 has passed in Rhode Island. It "creates a safe-passing zone between a motor vehicle and a bicycle when the motor vehicle is overtaking a bicycle traveling in the same direction. If a three-foot-wide passing space is not possible, then the driver of the motor vehicle is to slow down to increase the margin for passing safely beyond the bicycle." We hope that in addition to increasing safety for cyclists, the bill will serve as an educational tool to teach motorists about the rights and needs of bicyclists.

Please support this legislation by contacting the sponsors and thanking them for their efforts. Monitor the bill by going to bill tracking on the State of Delaware's website, or through the Delaware Bicycle Council or Bike Delaware websites. As the new year approaches, contact the members of the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee as well as your own representatives to encourage them to vote for this bill.

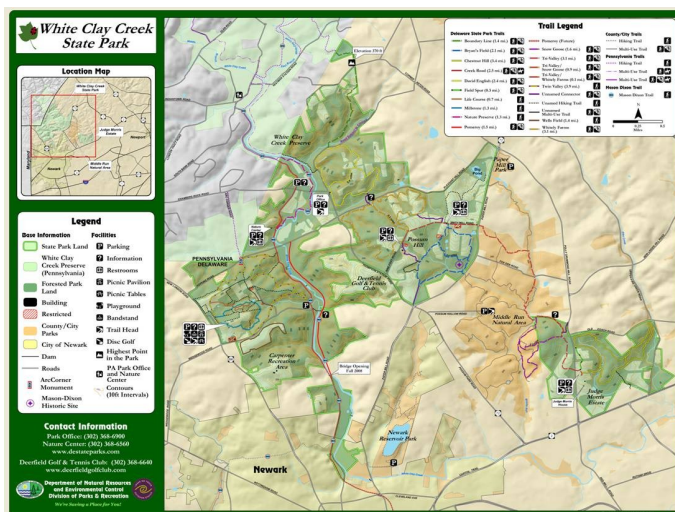


New Trail Maps for White Clay Creek State Park!

by Mike Krummrine

White Clay Creek State park located just north of the city of Newark is home to some of the finest hiking and off road cycling opportunities Delaware has to offer. With nearly 35 miles of trails within the park and another 12 miles of trails in the adjacent county owned Middle Run Natural Area, hikers and mountain bikers have plenty of trails to explore. To help visitors experience all the Park has to offer, Delaware State Parks staff recently completed a long overdue update to the Park Map.

The new map reflects the many trail re-routes, land acquisitions, and improvements that have occurred since the original map was printed in 2004. The 2008 map which includes elevation contours, permitted trail uses, and accurate trail distances is designed to help hikers and bikers easily navigate through what can seem like a maze of pathways for those not familiar to the park. The new park maps are available free of charge at the park office and nature center or online at: http://www.destateparks.com/wccsp/White_Clay_Tearoff3D.pdf



Example of Trail Map.

Delaware Autism Program by Judi Jeffers

Students at DAP (Delaware Autism Program) located at Brennan School in Newark want to thank the Delaware Bicycle Council for the generous donation of this tri-rider.



Student riding a tri-rider donated by Delaware Bicycle Council

As evidenced by this photo, Alex, one of the 120 students who participate in this recreational activity at school is having fun. The tri-rider is designed for a wide range of ages and abilities. The addition of the tri-rider will "...certainly enhance our physical education program" said Lorraine Bruton, spokesperson for the Delaware Autism Program. Cycling is challenging for many students who have difficulty with balancing or focusing and this type of bike allows them to ride with less worry. Cycling is a great activity to increase accessibility for people with disabilities and provides increased recreational opportunities that can close the gap that occurs when children become adults. The students are getting great exercise and are learning so they can join their families in this wonderful activity.



Since the Summit *by Anthony Aglio*

It has been six months since the Inaugural Delaware Bicycle Summit and what a great time for some feedback about what effect if any the Summit has made. I recently have read the newest survey administered by Bike Delaware which asks about road conditions and progress toward making Delaware more bike friendly.

Since the Summit we have seen Newark, Lewes, and the Greater Dover Region initiate or rekindle a bicycle committee, a bicycle plan or a bike friendly application. This is a great start for these communities. Getting government support is crucial to making places more bike friendly. The City of Wilmington has developed a Bicycle plan which has yet to be adopted by the city. They remain in limbo about the usefulness of bicycles, they need our encouragement.

The State has put a Complete Streets Policy on the Governor's Desk. With your help we have campaigned to get a bike lane on the St. Georges Bridge (still ongoing). We are seeing progress for getting better information about drivers behavior toward cycling into the drivers manual, we have drafted a safe passing distance bill which looks promising, we have gotten DelDOT to develop a design guidance memorandum to leave 5 Ft between islands and edge lines. And there is much more to come.

I would like to say that I believe that we are building momentum, it is fine to be disgruntled or upset but keep positively building momentum. We need to expand our partnerships and strengthen our commitment. Please keep requesting facilities to be part of the process, advocate to your elected officials. As I said before there is room in the process for everyone, the state and your communities need your involvement.

Bike-Friendly Delaware Blog *by Jim Westhoff*

Coming soon to the Delaware Bicycle Council Website is the very first Department of Transportation Blog. For many that might not be familiar with the term "Blog" it's the opportunity to share information about the Delaware Bicycle Council's programs and activities. The entries will be conversational in nature and will feature a first-person account of anything bicycle related. Authors to the blog include representatives from DelDOT, the Delaware Bicycle Council, Bike Delaware, and local bicycle clubs. This blog will provide the public with valuable information as well as give anyone the ability to post a comment. Comments will be sent directly to the Blog moderator and screened according to the Delaware Bicycle Council Blog use policy. Comments that are derogatory or offensive in nature will not be accepted. The Bicycle Council is really excited about this new feature as they feel it will serve as an excellent communication tool to the general public.. Please stay tuned for and plan to participate in the new Blog!! For more information or to get involved please contact [Jim Westhoff](#).



More Bicycles on the Road! *by Lisa Shaw*

When gasoline prices peaked in 2008, it changed the way the motoring public moved around town. You've probably noticed more motorcycles, more scooters, and more people on foot. But perhaps most noticeable is the increase in bicycle traffic on our roadways. Unfortunately, bicycles may be the toughest vehicles for motorists to spot, which leads to an increased number of crashes involving cyclists.

In 2008 there were six bicyclist fatalities, and there were 119 bicyclist injuries resulting from traffic crashes. Already this year, four cyclists have lost their lives while traveling Delaware roads. There was one fatality in New Castle County, one in Sussex County, and two in Kent County. In two of the cases, the vehicle operator drifted out of the lane of travel and struck the cyclist.



2008 showed an increase of bikes parked at the transit hub in Rehoboth Beach.

The Office of Highway Safety urges all bicyclists to wear all appropriate safety gear. Although helmets are not legally required for adult riders, they are 85-88% effective in mitigating head and brain injuries if the unthinkable happens; wearing a bicycle helmet is the single most effective way to save your life if you are involved in a crash! Also remember to use shoulders whenever possible, and always travel with the flow of traffic.

Motorists are urged to share the roads with cyclists. Cyclists use the shoulder of the road whenever possible, but there are times the shoulder is not clear or is unsafe. Always follow posted speeds and avoid aggressive driving behaviors. Also, be extra-vigilant in the low-light conditions of early morning or early evening.

Remember, cyclists have as much right to the roadway as a motor vehicle; courtesy and caution can save lives!

www.bike.deldot.gov

**Check out our website! We are constantly adding things to the calendar!
If your interested in getting involved or need more information**

Contact:

[Anthony Aglio](#) or [Amy Wilburn](#)

